Message Text

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ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

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USCINCSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A TAGS: PINT, VE

SUBJ: DESARROLLISTAS' CLAIM OF SUPPORT BY PEREZ JIMENEZ DISPUTED BY MAIN PEREZ JIMENISTA PARTIES

REF: CARACAS 7051

1. DESARROLLISTA PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE PEDRO TINOCO RETURNED FROM MADRID THIS PAST WEEKEND AFTER A WEEK'S CONVERSATION WITH EX-DICTATOR MARCOS PEREZ JIMENEZ (PJ). AT OCTOBER 22 PRESS CONFERENCE TINOCO CLAIMED THAT HE NOW HAS OBTAINED SUPPORT OF PJ FOR HIS CANDIDACY, AND RELEASED A LETTER FROM PJ TO SUBSTANTIATE HIS CLAIM. ACTUALLY, LETTER ONLY THANKS TINOCO FOR SUPPORT OF PJ'S IDEAS AND ENCOURAGES TINOCO TO CONTINUE HIS BATTLE AGAINST ACCION DEMOCRATICA AND COPEI, AND DOES NOT RPT NOT SPECIFICALLY ENDORSE TINOCO'S CANDIDACY. LEADERS OF PEREZ JIMENISTA PARTIES NATIONALIST CIVIC CRUSADE (CCN) AND UNITED NATIONALIST FRONT (FUN), WHO HAVE OPPOSED TINOCO'S CANDIDACY FROM OUTSET, HAVE STATED TO PRESS THAT PJ LETTER DOES NOT CONSTITUTE ENDORSEMENT OF TINOCO AND THAT THEY WILL NOT THROW THEIR SUPPORT TO HIM.

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2. COMMENT: THIS LATEST DESARROLLISTA ATTEMPT IN A YEAR-LONG EFFORT TO OBTAIN PJ'S CLEAR SUPPORT FOR TINOCO'S CANDIDACY APPEARS TO HAVE FAILED, BUT THE DESARROLLISTAS ARE OBVIOUSLY TRYING TO GET THE MOST MILEAGE OUT OF PJ'S RATHER TEPID LETTER. PJ MAY EITHER DECIDE TO BACK NO CANDIDATE OR URGE HIS FOLLOWERS TO ABSTAIN ON THE PRESIDENTIAL BALLOT, ALTHOUGH NO-ONE CAN BE SURE WHAT, IF ANY-THING, THE INDECISIVE PJ PLANS TO DO. THIS IS CAUSING GREAT UN-CERTAINTY AND DISARRAY IN DISPARATE PEREZJIMENISTA MOVEMENT AND SEEMS TO BE LESSENING ITS ELECTORAL APPEAL. TINOCO HAS THE SUPPORT OF TWO PJ PARTIES, BUT BULK OF PEREZJIMENISTA MOVEMENT WOULD ONLY SUPPORT TINOCO ON AN UNEOUIVOCAL ORDER OF PJ. AND EVEN THEN MOST RELUCTANTLY. IN ABSENCE OF SUCH AN ORDER ANTI-TINOCO PEREZ-JIMENISTA FORCES HAVE BEEN CASTING ABOUT FOR A UNIFYING CANDIDATE, AND RECENTLY PROPOSED THAT PJ'S WIFE RUN FOR THE PRESIDENCY. HOW-EVER, PJ APPEARS TO HAVE REJECTED THAT TACTIC, LEAVING THE ANTI-TINOCO PEREZJIMENISTAS FLOUNDERING. UNLESS PJ ADOPTS A NEW POSITION IT APPEARS THEY WILL CONTINUE FLOUNDERING AND DIS-UNITED, RIGHT UP THROUGH THE ELECTIONS. MCCLINTOCK

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